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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5960th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 August 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns the Mauritanian military's overthrow of the democratically elected Government of Mauritania and welcomes the statements condemning the coup by the African Union, European Union and other members of the international community.

"The Security Council opposes any attempts to change governments through unconstitutional means.

"The Security Council condemns the actions of the State Council, in particular its move to seize the powers of the presidency.

"The Security Council demands the immediate release of President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi and the restoration of the legitimate, constitutional, democratic institutions immediately.

"The Security Council recognizes the important role played by the African Union as well as the support of regional and international partners, including the United Nations Secretary-General through his Special Representative for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, and calls on all to assist in restoring constitutional order in Mauritania.

"The Security Council will monitor developments on this situation."

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